

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

13. (new) An image storage and delivery method for recording and reproducing image data from a web camera, the method comprising:

a normal recording step wherein an image received by the web camera is recorded as first image data with a first image quality;

when an alarm occurs performing:

a requesting step wherein delivery of second image data representative of the image received by the web camera before the alarm occurred is requested from the web camera, and

an alarm recording step wherein the second image data from the web camera is recorded with a second image quality without stopping the normal recording step, whereby the second image data and part of the first image data are representative of the image at the same time; and

a reproduction step wherein, during reproduction of data representative of the image at said same time, the second image data, having a higher image quality than the first image data, is preferentially reproduced when an instruction for seamless playback is received from a user.

14. (new) The image storage and delivery method according to claim 13, further comprising:

temporarily storing the first image data from the web camera in a first memory; and

temporarily storing the second image data from the web camera in a second memory when the alarm occurs,

wherein the first image data with the first image quality is recorded by storing the first image data from the first memory in a first storage area of a disk device with a time stamp and the second image data with the second image quality is recorded by storing the second image data from the second memory in a second area of the disk device with a time stamp, and

wherein the first or second image data is reproduced based on the time stamps.

15. (new) The image storage and delivery method according to claim 14, wherein the second image quality is an image quality of image data stored by the web camera for the recording of the second image data.

16. (new) The image storage and delivery method according to claim 15, wherein the image quality indicates at least one of a frame rate, a compression factor, and a resolution, and

wherein the higher image quality indicates at least one of a higher frame rate, a lower compression factor and a higher resolution.

17. (new) The image storage and delivery method according to claim 16, wherein the first and second image data from the web camera is compressed by the web camera in an IP packet form.

18. (new) The image storage and delivery method according to claim 17, wherein the first and second image data from the web camera includes still images compressed in a JPEG format or a corresponding format, and the first and second image data are recorded in a format for recording image data intermittently.

19. (new) An image storage and delivery method for recording and reproducing image data from a web camera,

wherein the web camera comprises:

an encoder for compressing and encoding an image received by the web camera at a predetermined frame rate and outputting the encoded compressed signal as image data,

a first memory for storing a latest one frame of the outputted image data or a plurality of frames of the outputted image data which are intermittently recorded, and

a second memory for storing the outputted image data over a predetermined time period at an alarm recording rate,

the image storage and delivery method comprising:

a first requesting step wherein delivery of first image data representative of an image received by the web camera is requested from the web camera;

a normal recording step wherein when the request for delivery of the first image data is received by the web camera or when a predetermined

timing occurs, image data is transmitted from the first memory and recorded as the first image data with a first image quality; and

when an alarm occurs performing:

a second requesting step wherein delivery of second image data representative of the image received by the web camera before the alarm occurred is requested from the web camera,

an alarm recording step wherein when the request for delivery of the second image data is received by the web camera, image data is transmitted from the second memory and recorded as the second image data with a second image quality without stopping the normal recording step, whereby the second image quality is higher than the first image quality and the second image data and part of the first image data are representative of the image at the same time, and

a reproduction step wherein, during reproduction of data representative of the image at said same time, the second image data, having a higher image quality than the first image data, is preferentially reproduced when an instruction for seamless playback is received from a user.

20. (new) The image storage and delivery method according to claim 13, wherein the second image quality is an image quality of image data stored by the web camera for the recording of the second image data.

21. (new) The image storage and delivery method according to claim 13, wherein the reproduction step comprises:

comparing, a client terminal, a time stamp of a last acquired image in a reproduced image memory for a normal channel with a time stamp of a last acquired image in a reproduced image memory for an alarm channel;

if the time stamp of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the alarm channel is judged to be later and if the time stamp of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for alarm channel is judged to indicate the same time as the time stamp of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the normal channel, then first reading out, by the client terminal, the last acquired image from the reproduced image memory for the alarm channel, outputting the last acquired image to a monitor, and reproducing the image data;

if the time stamp of the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the normal channel is judged to be later, then calculating, by the client terminal, a difference in time stamp between the latest acquired image and the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the alarm channel;

second reading out, by the client terminal, frame rate information given to the last acquired image in the reproduced image memory for the alarm channel as additional information, and calculating an alarm continuation decision value;

comparing, by the client terminal, the difference calculated by the calculating step with the alarm continuation decision value calculated at the second reading out step;

if the difference is equal to or less than the continuation decision value, then first reading out, by the client terminal, the last acquired image from the

reproduced image memory for the alarm channel, outputting the last acquired image to a monitor, and reproducing the image data the processing; and

if the difference in time stamp is greater than the alarm continuation decision value, then third reading out the client terminal the last acquired image from the reproduced image memory for the normal channel, outputting the last acquired image to the monitor, and reproducing the image data.